28th November 1928]

Collection of rents from landowners whose lands have been acquired for the Mettur Project.

* 741-B. Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the people residing in villages near Mettur, whose houses and lands have been acquired, submitted a memorial to the Government that there was an original understanding that the Government would collect from them only a rent calculated at 4 per cent on the purchase money paid to them and that the subordinate officers have been now demanding 6 per cent;

(b) whether the members of the Mettur Project deputation also have made a recommendation that the rent may be collected on a 4 per cent basis till the lands and houses are submerged;

(c) whether the Government have considered the whole question in view of the above and arrived at any decision, and if so, to what effect; and

(d) whether, if no decision has been arrived yet, the Government have any objection to come to a conclusion at once and pass orders in favour of the memorialists at an early date?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) & (d) The Government have decided that the rent should be limited to 4 per cent of the compensation paid by the Government.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapati Mudaliyar:—"May I enquire from what date the rent will be collected, from the date of the Government Order or any prior date?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"From the date on which the men are renting the lands."

Abolition of the Godavari Anicut division.

* 745 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Godavari anicut and its surrounding were constituted into a separate division for Public Works Department;

(b) of whom the staff consisted;

(c) what the annual cost of this department was for last year;

(d) for how long this separate department was in existence;

(e) the nature of the work this department was doing;

(f) whether this department has been abolished; and

(g) if so, for what reasons?

A.—(a) A subdivision was constituted in 1916 for the charge of the Godavari Delta Headworks which included the anicut, quarries, buildings at Dowlaishweram and brick, lime and surki manufacture.

(b) The staff consisted of an Assistant Engineer, two clerks and three peons.

(c) The pay of the above staff calculated on the basis of the average pay of the posts, amounts to Rs. 7,380 per annum. Information regarding expenditure incurred on allowances and contingencies is not available.

[28th November 1928

(*d*) Up till May 1928

(*e*) The subdivision was in charge of the works mentioned in clause (*a*) above.

(*f*) & (*g*) The subdivision was abolished, as the Chief Engineer reported that the work could be attended to by a supervisor working under the direct orders of the Executive Engineer, Godavari Headworks division.

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I know whether the work was done satisfactorily till May 1928 under the old arrangement ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" So far as I am aware, the separate subdivision was abolished for the reason that it was an expensive arrangement."

Improvements to the head sluice of the supply canal to the Kanigiri reservoir.

* 746 *Q.*—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the question of improving and increasing the number of vents at the head sluice of the supply canal to the Kanigiri reservoir in Nellore district is ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that owing to the deficiency of rain and precarious freshes in the river Pennar, sufficient water could not be let out into the supply canal from the river ; and

(*c*) whether the Government will consider the advisability of putting up falling shutters on the Sangam anicut to stop wastage of water ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have called for a report from the Chief Engineer.

Land Assignment

Assignment of lands to ex-military men in South Arcot.

* 747 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of men recruited from South Arcot for military service during the Great War ;

(*b*) how many of them applied for a grant of land, either by themselves or through their relations or heirs ;

(*c*) how many of the applicants have been so assigned lands up to date ; and

(*d*) the number of cases still pending assignment ?

A.—(*a*) One thousand eight hundred and forty-three combatants and 1,481 non-combatants.

(*b*) to (*d*) The following are the particulars of the applications for grants of land on account of service in the army received in the South Arcot district from October 1924 to 30th September 1928 :—

Number of applications received	679
Number of assignments made	298
Number of applications rejected	380
Number pending on 30th September 1928 ...	1